



Protests, p.8



July 4th, p.12

Leila Dawson's Multidisciplinary Pursuits Lead to Stanford Next

by Will Hammann

Six majors, eight internships and 23 jobs colored the undergraduate journey of Leila Dawson, who ultimately graduated from the University of Maryland with a double degree in economics and international relations in 2020.

She was one of only three students in her class offered a job by Deloitte, one of the world's largest consulting firms, where she worked advising government agencies, global nonprofits and biopharmaceutical companies on healthcare.

Now, she pursues a dual graduate degree in public policy from Harvard and in business administration from Stanford, which this June named her a Knight-Hennessy Scholar – inducting her into the prestigious, multidisciplinary leadership fellowship that funds her Stanford studies.

“My main goal is just to think in an interdisciplinary way,” said Dawson, who attributes that perspective to her unrelenting curiosity and to her experience here



PHOTO COURTESY LEILA DAWSON

Leila Dawson, alumna of Greenbelt Elementary, Eleanor Roosevelt High School and University of Maryland, is one of Stanford University's 2025 cohort of Knight-Hennessy Scholars.

in Greenbelt and the DMV as a whole.

Greenbelt Years

“Greenbelt, I think, is one of the most magical cities in the universe. It holds such a special place in my heart,” said Dawson, who lived just a few miles

away in Lanham but attended Greenbelt Elementary and took part in extracurricular activities through the Recreation Center, such as Camp Pine Tree.

Later, she went to Eleanor Roosevelt High School through Prince George's County Public Schools' science and technology magnet program for students from all over the county.

“It was just so diverse across so many dimensions: race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, personality, ability,” said Dawson. “That was really formative to me as a person, and I think it allowed me to kind of see disparities across geography,

See DAWSON, page 11

The SPACE Isn't Shrinking; Its Programs Are Expanding

by Bob Rand



PHOTO COURTESY THE SPACE

Shaymar Higgs pictured in The Third Space

There's a buzz around The SPACE – and with good reason. As some community members have asked, “What's happening with The SPACE?” it's important to clarify that The SPACE is not closing. In fact, it's growing. While asked to vacate the Upper SPACE location at Beltway Plaza, regular programs like yoga,

sewing and music are continuing uninterrupted, and exciting new opportunities are unfolding.

Beltway Plaza management recently informed The SPACE that a potential new tenant may be moving into the former Big Lots store location, where The SPACE

See THE SPACE, page 7

PGCPS Will Replace StopFinder Bus Tracking App with Chipmunk

by Ellie Jornlin

After years of parent complaints about the StopFinder app, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is officially phasing in a new bus tracking app, Chipmunk, in the 2025-26 school year.

The announcement came during the June 27 Board of Education meeting, where district leaders outlined updates to the PGCPS Transportation Action Plan.

StopFinder Frustrations

The current StopFinder app has had many complaints from the Prince George's County community, with major glitches and other issues that affect smooth and reliable student transportation (see stories in the February 6, 2025, issue). “StopFinder stopped finding children a long time ago,” joked Board Member Phelton Moss, Ph.D., during the recent board meeting.

One of the key issues with StopFinder, which partners with the TransFinder routing system, is its inability to accurately track buses running multiple trips. This has caused confusion and delays in communication, with bus drivers reporting constant buffering and difficulties connecting to the system.

“Currently the app cannot correlate the GPS to the multiple trips assigned to that bus,” said



PGCPS has announced the bus tracking app Chipmunk will be phased in to replace StopFinder.

PGCPS Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin. “So even though you will see that start time on the app, you won't see the bus [in the app] if there are multiple trips.”

Chipmunk will operate under a system called BusPlanner that houses the GPS and routing systems. The transportation team explained that it will be much

See BUSES, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, July 14

7:30 p.m., City Council

Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, July 16

7:30 p.m., Advisory Boards

and Committees Interviews,

Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5

or the meetings calendar at

greenbeltmd.gov for more

information.

History Day Teacher of The Year Patch Leaves Legacy in Greenbelt

by Joan Estenson

Prince George's County Teacher of the Year for Maryland History Day, Victoria Patch, will be teaching English in Baltimore in the coming school year, but History Day will go on in Greenbelt.

Patch, a ninth-grade teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), together with 10th grade teacher Judith Barrera, brought History Day back to Greenbelt and coordinated it here. For most students the project is part of their school work, though some do it just because they like it.

This year there were 184 projects at the ERHS History Day contest, 23 of which went on to the Prince George's County contest.

Some students begin work on their projects during the summer, some wait until fall, but in either case research and development of their projects lasts several months. Students choose the topic they will research and decide whether to prepare a paper, documentary, exhibit, performance or website, done individually or as a group. Students show their work at the school contest and if they win there they go on to county contests in March. From those they may go on to Maryland History Day (MHD) in May, a program of Maryland Humanities, and finally to National History Day (NHD) in early June.

NHD is an international program based in College Park. They estimate about 500,000 students compete annually at the school, regional/district and affiliate levels, and around 3,000 each year reach the national competi-



PHOTO BY PORTIA WIGGINS PORTRAITURE

Victoria Patch with her daughter Rosie

tion. Each year NHD picks a theme. For the coming year, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the theme is Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.

Plans and Back Story

Since she isn't helping students prepare their History Day projects Patch thinks she will become a judge for this year's contests.

Patch said when she was growing up history was “just there.” Her dad was involved in genealogical research and her mother watched films from the golden age of Hollywood; both parents shared their interests with Patch. Her grandmother took Patch and her sisters to museums, historic sites and on neighborhood history tours. Patch “was hooked.”

See PATCH, page 6



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Fireworks attendees are greeted by a chalk welcome sign commissioned by the Arts Advisory Board (AAB) and created by artist Emily Liddle at an entrance to the Lake. See more photos, p. 12.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to Public Works

Thank you for publishing (July 3, page 7) the picture of a Public Works crew clearing a huge fallen tree in Buddy Attick Park. That casualty was somewhat personal to me, because the tree, which was growing on one bank

of the Greenbelt Lake peninsula, fell across the stream that feeds the lake, across the lake path, and about 15’ into my backyard. Clearing it was a multiday, coordinated effort.

Very late Saturday night I discovered the tree and entered a service request on the city’s website.

By 8 a.m. Monday a crew arrived, and cut and removed both the part of the tree that was blocking the path and the smaller branches in my backyard.

On Monday afternoon a separate Public Works crew collected two piles of leaves that had been removed from the tree in the morning.

On Tuesday Public Works cut up and removed the tree trunk from the park and from my backyard.

See LETTERS, page 4



PHOTO BY RONALD BENJAMIN

Public Works crew clear the downed tree in Buddy Attick Park.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

F1: The Movie

Sonny Hayes (Brad Pitt) was Formula 1’s most promising phenom of the 1990s until an accident on the track nearly ended his career. Thirty years later, he’s a nomadic racer-for-hire when he’s approached by his former teammate Ruben Cervantes (Javier Bardem), owner of a struggling Formula 1 team that is on the verge of collapse. Ruben convinces Sonny to come back to Formula 1 for one last shot at saving the team and being the best in the world. As the engines roar, Sonny’s past catches up with him and he finds that in Formula 1, your teammate is your fiercest competition – and the road to redemption is not something you can travel alone.

Familiar Touch

When her son arrives to dine with her, Ruth (Kathleen Chalfant), a retired cook, mistakes him for a suitor. Their “date” takes them to an assisted living facility, which Ruth does not remember that she had previously selected for herself. Among her fellow memory care residents, Ruth feels lost and adrift, certain she has found herself somewhere she does not belong. As she slowly begins to accept the warmth and support of care workers Vanessa (Carolyn Michelle) and Brian (Andy McQueen), she finds new ways to ground herself in her body, even as her mind embarks on a journey all its own.

Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore

Marlee Matlin was born into a hearing family, like roughly 9 percent of Deaf people. Growing up in Illinois, she faced episodes of isolation and abuse. She found joy in performing at a local Deaf theater. In 1987, Matlin became the first Deaf actor to win an Academy Award and was thrust into the spotlight at 21 years old. Reflecting on her life in her primary language of American Sign Language, the film explores the complexities of what it means to be a trailblazer.

The Last Ecstatic Days

Ethan Sisser, a young man afflicted with brain cancer, sits alone in his hospital room. When he begins live-streaming his death journey on social media, thousands of people around the world join him and celebrate his courage. Still, Ethan envisions more – to teach the world how to die. To honor his final wish of filming his death, his doctor, Aditi Sethi, transports him to a quiet house in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Asheville, N.C.. What unfolds next is a story that’s rarely glimpsed: how a community of strangers helps an unhoused man die on his own terms.

Paddington

After a deadly earthquake destroys his home in the Peruvian rainforest, a young bear (Ben Whishaw) makes his way to England in search of a new home. The bear, dubbed “Paddington” for the London train station, finds shelter with the family of Henry (Hugh Bonneville) and Mary Brown (Sally Hawkins). Although Paddington’s amazement at urban living soon endears him to the Browns, someone else has her eye on him: Taxidermist Millicent Clyde (Nicole Kidman) has designs on the rare bear and his hide.

Sinners

Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers (Michael B. Jordan) return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JULY 11th - 17th

F1: The Movie (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (155 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 4:45 PM (OC), 8:00 PM
Tue. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 1:45 PM, 5:00 PM
Mon. 1:45 PM, 5:00 PM
Wed. 6:00 PM, Thurs. 7:45 PM

Familiar Touch (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (90 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:15 PM, Wed. 4:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM, Sat. 5:15 PM
Tue. 8:15 PM, Thurs. 5:30 PM

Marlee Matlin:
Not Alone Anymore
(NR) (2025) (98 mins)
w/ English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 3:15 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM
Thurs. 4:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, Sat. 7:45 PM
Tue. 6:00 PM, Wed. 3:45 PM

The Last Ecstatic Days
(NR) (2024) (75 mins)
Free Screening!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 7:00 PM

Paddington
(PG) (2014) (95 mins)
School’s Out! - FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

Sinners (R)
(2025) (CC) (DVS) (137 mins)
Cult Classic - In partnership with
Maryland State Delegate
Ashanti Martinez
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 8:00 PM

PETE REPERT

FIREFLY TECH SUPPORT.

- News Review, July 19, 2018

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Letters continued from page 2

On Wednesday morning a commercial tree service arrived with a crane. They cut down an immense tree that was right next to the one that fell, chipped the branches and stacked the larger sections of the trunk on the peninsula path for city use.

On Wednesday afternoon Public Works removed the trunk sections and repaired the damaged section of the lake path fence.

My thanks to Public Works for a job well done.

Ron Benjamin

Co-op Pharmacy: In Response

Greenbelt Co-op General Manager Dan Gillotte is right to highlight the potentially dire consequences of the Trump administration’s vaccine policy (A Co-operative Pharmacy Battles Big Chains, Vaccine Skepticism, July 3, 2025). But he’s wrong to state that there’s “not much” we can do about it.

It is true that, under the Affordable Care Act, U.S. insurers are legally required to cover only those vaccines recommended by the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). However, states may impose additional requirements on insurers operating within their borders. Such state-level measures were recommended by former White House Covid-19 Response Coordinator Ashish Jha in a recent Washington Post op-ed (RFK Jr. is sabotaging the vaccine program. Here’s how to stop him. June 17, 2025).

Maryland can and should require coverage of vaccines beyond those recommended by ACIP when scientific evidence warrants it. I urge Greenbelters to contact their state legislators and encourage them to take action on this front.

Sam Waite

FBI HQ Stays in D.C.

Good news! Greenbelt just bought more time (at least for 12 years?) to remain more green; free from more traffic congestion and free from a multibillion-dollar, multibuilding FBI campus with tons of concrete, glass and steel.

Kudos to the Trump/Vance and Kash Patel (FBI director) administration in saving taxpayers billions of dollars by relocating the FBI HQ to underused or vacant office space in the Reagan building only a few blocks from the DOJ. Makes lots of sense. Keep FBI in DC!

Robert Snyder

Greenbelt Explosions

From 10:30 p.m. July 4 to just after 1 a.m. July 5, a series of nearly 40 explosions took place near the intersection of Southway and Ridge Road.

No vehicles entered or left the area surrounding the detonations, suggesting a biker or pedestrian traveled to the intersection multiple times during the three hours. All traffic was during the period when people were leaving the city fireworks display. The explosions went on for hours after that.

Explosions sometimes went off in pairs, first one, then the other. Some were separated by five to 10 minutes.

Since this sort of firework is

illegal in Prince George’s and Maryland, they had to be brought from out of state.

They were as loud as, and set off in the same place as, explosions that occurred June 25, 26 and 29. Somebody made trips at least during the day of the 25th, and may have stored the explosives in a GHI shed or unit, or a car in a GHI court or city parking, until July 5. Alternatively, the explosives were imported each day before they were set off at night. They were all set off about 10 at night, except on the 29th when they were set off about 2 a.m.

Over these 30 years plenty of scofflaws have set off small firecrackers on Ridge Road, near 16 Court.

Patricia Heil

Greenbelt Needs RCV

Back in 2023 while the city council was considering how to fill the vacancy left by Ric Gordon’s death, all councilmembers expressed support for moving to a ranked choice voting (RCV) system. RCV would allow residents to rank their preferences for council rather than having to try and strategically bullet vote in a multi-member race.

In every jurisdiction where this system has been adopted, over half of all voters prefer it to traditional ballot systems. More than 80 percent of voters across jurisdictions that use RCV find the system easy and simple. Some elections have also exhibited increased turnout after moving to RCV.

Despite their promises to back

RCV, every single incumbent councilmember chose to back Greenbelt’s current system, even though the current system tends to result in significant under-voting (often as part of folks’ bullet voting strategy) and in low turnout. At the same time, sitting councilmembers are discussing lengthening their own terms from two years to four years. A rejection of RCV combined with longer terms will simply re-entrench incumbents’ power (challengers seem less likely to succeed under Greenbelt voters’ bullet voting strategy) with fewer democratic checks on such power. Greenbelt voters have not rejected an incumbent in an election for decades, and it seems as though the current incumbents are working their hardest to make sure that we the voters never do.

Alexander Zajac

Correction

I appreciated reading “Council Approves Solid Waste Pilot Program for One Year.” There is just one minor correction: The small 8-gallon city-approved bag will cost \$0.80. FYI, council approved unanimously to set the yearly base fee for those who participate at \$240, and those who do not

participate at \$380.

Green ACES and the Green Team will be providing details in upcoming articles and other media sources for this pilot project expected to begin on January 1, 2026.

John Lippert
Chair, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) / Green Team

 Best wishes to Teacher of the Year Victoria Patch, who is leaving Eleanor Roosevelt High School to teach in Baltimore in the coming school year. As we note on the front page, her History Day legacy will continue.

Congratulations to Leila Dawson, an ERHS graduate and Camp Pine Tree and Recreation Center employee, on her Knight-Hennessy Scholarship at Stanford.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Advertising Rate Change

Effective the issue of August 7, 2025, the News Review will change its ad rates.

Display

The base rate (Tier A) will be \$11.50 per column inch. The nonprofit rate for those qualifying will be \$8.10 per column inch.

Discounts are available for those placing at least 45 column inches per calendar quarter.

Inserts

The price for placing inserts into the paper will change to \$35 per thousand copies for a full press run.

For further information visit www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/advertising.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://ccg1985+owner@groups.io)

“The welfare of any segment of humanity is inextricably bound up with the welfare of the whole.”
– Universal House of Justice



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
New Sermon Series - Campfire Stories

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM



We Are an Open and Affirming Church

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road

Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

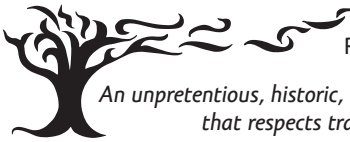
ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
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Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

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Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community 

July 13, 2025 at 3 p.m.
What A Difference A Place Makes
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

In the spirit of our July theme (Pilgrimage), we’ll explore the ways in which a journey to a sacred place (natural, historical, spiritual, cultural, ancestral, etc.) can transform your inner space – and your life.

Streaming on PBUUC’s Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

City Notes

July 4 preparations led by Public Works occupied many city departments and staff.

Public Safety/Community attended the Police Department’s swearing-in ceremony for two new officers, and Public Information continued troubleshooting the new greenbeltmd.gov website.

At Environmental/Sustainability’s Gardening Get Together at the Lake, a volunteer and Park Rangers mulched garden paths. Animal Shelter residents are a cat, six kittens, a dog and a puppy.

Arts staff continued facilitating three public art installations: a sculpture at Motiva to be dedicated this month, one for Braden Field in progress with community-made elements and a third being planned for the under-construction Greenbelt Square senior community. Creative Kids Camp performed their first shows of the summer.

At the indoor pool, Public Works repaired or replaced overhead light fixtures; contractors applied epoxy on the pool deck.

In June, CARES counseled 97 adults and 39 youths, 29 students received tutoring, 21 attended GED training, 12 took ESOL classes and seven studied work-force skills.

At the Library

Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Pre-K Story Hour/Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder
Friday, July 11, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome! ¡Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos. Amigos y familiares son bienvenidos! Hosted by Greenbelt Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749296.

Storytimes
Friday, July 11, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749401.

Wednesday, July 16, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749346.

Thursday, July 17, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13749378.

STEM-tastic
Tuesday, July 15, 4:30 p.m., ages 8 to 12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Register at pgcmls.info/event/13742333.

Passports
Greenbelt Library serves as a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgcmls.info/passport-services.

Customers may call the Greenbelt Library directly at 301-345-5800 for their reference inquiries and to book passport service appointments during regular Library operating hours.

Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together, all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe, and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 14 at 7:30 PM

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by*] will be approved by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations
- Parks and Recreation Proclamation
* Minutes
Administrative Reports
* Committee Reports
- Advisory Planning Board Report #2025-02:9001 Edmonston Road, Prince George's County, Outpatient Replacement Facility

LEGISLATION
-A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein when Total Fiscal Year Purchases from each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
- 1st Reading

Suggested Action: Reference: Resolution
Negotiated Purchase List

Each year, the City does business with a number of vendors from whom the City's individual purchases are below the bid limit of \$10,000, but total purchases over the fiscal year reach or exceed that amount.

Obtaining bid proposals for these goods and services is not warranted. Some of these vendors are the sole source or best source of purchase. In other instances, the City's purchases are based on bids taken by other government agencies (e.g., the State or County) or through the Council of Governments cooperative purchase program, with the bid price extended to Greenbelt. It is recommended this resolution be introduced for first reading.

-A Resolution to Implement "Save As You Throw" (SAYT) Program and Adjust Solid Waste Collection Fees
- 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS
- 9001 Edmonston Road, Prince George's County, Outpatient Replacement Facility
- FY26 Roadworks & Miscellaneous Concrete Approval
- Authorization to Purchase Police Vehicle(s)
- Approval of Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Contract
- Approval of Motorola Service Agreement for Police Radios
- Approval of Carrington & Associates Contract
- Discussion to Replace the Senior Lounge Furniture
- Discussion and Policy Update: Lowering the Minimum Age for Election Workers to 16
- Discussion to Expand Warming/Cooling Center Hours
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
*Meetings

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held, call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM & PAINT RECYCLING
Saturday, July 26, 9 am - 12 pm
Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

RECYCLE YOUR OLD COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONICS!

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords. NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6.
Clean - Cups, egg cartons, and food trays welcome.

PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$100 service fee. Contact: Yuck Old Paint, LLC 888-509-9825 (YUCK) or www.YuckOldPaint.com. Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004 with any questions or concerns.

The Pink Pantry provides free menstrual products to Greenbelt residents, including pads, tampons, and wipes from trusted brands like Cora, Always, Rael, HoneyPot, and more! To receive these products, register by contacting Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter. Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources#!/>

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

MEETINGS FOR JULY 14-18

Monday, July 14 at 7:30 pm, **REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, July 16 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES INTERVIEWS**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held, call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Greenbelt Produce Distribution

July 17, 2025, 1 pm – while supplies last
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt MD 20770

Requirement: Must have a Produce Card to participate. Questions? Contact Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov

NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR ARPA PED/BIKE PROJECTS

Throughout the month of July, 2025, a City contractor will begin construction on new and updated pedestrian ramps in advance of Public Works installing marked mid-block crosswalks.

Construction will occur in the vicinity of the following five locations and will include removal of parking spaces both for construction and for establishing safe sight distances at the new crosswalks.

- Southway, between Crescent Road and Ridge Road
- Ridge Road, between 31 Ct. and 33 Ct.
- Ridge Road, at the pathway between 33 Ct. and 35 Ct.
- Ridge Road, at the pathway adjacent to 43 Ct.
- Hillside Road north of Crescent Road

Please contact Jaime Fearer, Assistant Director of Planning, with questions at jfearer@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2040

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee**. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

FEATURED PETS:
JUNIOR

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124.



Six-year-old Junior has been in a foster home for almost a year and is still looking for a forever home! Junior (now affectionately nicknamed Juni) has insulin-dependent diabetes, but he doesn't let that slow him down. While administering an insulin shot might seem scary, Junior takes his medicine like a champ. Junior's foster says he's a gentle soul. He's super affectionate and loves to be wherever the household action is. His favorite activity is sitting by the door or window and watching the local wildlife and ongoing outside (he's a great neighborhood watch). He also gets along with everyone he meets — including his cat and dog foster siblings! If you're interested in adopting call (301) 474-6124 or email us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov!

ARTS HAPPENINGS

For more information and updates:
View the summer activity guide at www.greenbeltmd.gov/464/activity-guide
Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.
Follow us on Instagram - @greenbeltrecreationarts

Camp Encore Performs A Midsummer Night’s Dream 7/15 at 2 pm & 7/16 at 11 am. Greenbelt Arts Center.

Teen actors play multiple roles in this fast-paced adaptation of Shakespeare’s magical comedy. For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208.
Friends & Family Art Workshop: Wool Felting Accessories 7/11, 5:30-7 pm. Greenbelt Community Center.

All ages welcome. Upcycle pendants, earrings, keychains, and more! Felt over your own items, or create a freestanding sculpture. No experience necessary.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON!

- Art Share (Meet-Up) 7/18, 7-8 pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- Creative Kids Camp Performs Memory Quest in Central Park 7/18, 10 am & 2:15 pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- Pet Portraits Painting Class 7/25 & 8/1, 6-8 pm Greenbelt Community Center

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Music & Arts

Singing for Justice at the Café

by Kurt Stand

Music is rooted in community and building community is the basis of social justice. Faith Petric, born in a log cabin in Idaho in 1915, combined both for nearly a century, her voice still going strong until her final months in 2013. The film *Singing for Justice: The Faith Petric Story*, recounting her life and legacy, was screened on May 19 at the New Deal Café before a crowd of about 100 people – 50 in person and 50 present via Zoom. It was one of the largest audiences ever for a Reel and Meal film. Petric's music, rooted in church songs and popular tunes she heard growing up, was embedded in the experiences of the Depression, the Spanish Civil War, working at a shipyard during World War II and the challenges of being a single mother during the McCarthy era. Through it all, she never gave up. Her spirit was captured in a song heard in the film: You ain't done nothin' if you ain't been called a red/If you've marched or agitated, then you're bound to hear it said/ So you might as well ignore it, or love the word instead/Cause you ain't been doin' nothin' if you ain't been called a red.

Directed by Estelle Freed-



PHOTO BY KURT STAND

A large audience attends the New Deal Café screening on May 19 of the film about social justice singer Faith Petric.

man and Christie Herring, the documentary traces Petric's background and renewed commitment to music and activism after she took part in the seminal civil rights march across the Edmund Pettis Bridge in 1965. A few years later she retired from paid work and dedicated the rest of her life to singing, encouraging others to sing and creating space for music and community wherever she went. Petric hosted a drop-in community songfest at her San Francisco home for decades and took part in the New Old Time Chautauqua traveling circus/theater/music touring small, out-of-the way towns in

the Northwest. Whether it was church music, spirituals, light-hearted country tunes or songs of the labor, civil rights and peace movements, Petric brought music to the people – not through concert halls or major festivals, but by fostering shared humanity and mutual respect. That, at its core, is what organizing is all about.

The film's power was evident in the discussion that followed. While director Freedman answered questions about the filmmaking process, many attendees also shared personal stories about moments when music touched their lives and reflected on themes of courage and commitment. Appropriately in a film about community singing, singing was part of the evening for everyone in attendance. The post-film discussion was led by D.C. Labor Chorus Director Elise Bryant with the chorus ending the evening with Solidarity Forever, including a recently added verse that speaks to our time: They divide us by our color, they divide us by our tongue/They divide us men and women, they divide us old and young/But they'll tremble at our voices when they hear these verses sung/For the union makes us strong. For more information about the film go to singingforjustice.com or facebook.com/FaithPetricFilm.

Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. For more information, visit facebook.com/reelandmealNDC. Every May, Reel and Meal, together with the Labor Heritage Foundation, co-sponsors a labor-focused film.

THE SPACE continued from page 1

has offered free weekly classes, special events and children's programming since 2021. As a result, The SPACE has been asked to remove all items and materials from the Upper SPACE by July 15. However, the organization has been invited to continue offering regular programming there until the location is formally occupied – possibly in the fall.

Thanks to generous support from the Greenbelt Community Foundation and American Rescue Plan Act funding from the City of Greenbelt, the Upper SPACE expansion in 2021 allowed The SPACE to dramatically increase its impact. Programs like Bloom with Intention (yoga and meditation), Sew, What?! and Strings & Keys music classes have since become beloved fixtures for the community. The Upper SPACE also served as the home of a play area developed with longtime partner Playtime Project, offering a nurturing environment for local children and families.

While the closing of the Upper SPACE may force the relocation of some programs, The SPACE remains active with two vibrant storefronts downstairs, directly across from AMC Theatre. The E2 Lab (Electronics & Entrepreneurship Lab) is a program that houses cutting-edge creative technology including 3D printers, a laser engraver, heat presses and tools for video production, digital design and AI art creation. The ARTrepreneur training program teaches participants of all ages how to fuse creativity with business, equipping them with skills in entrepreneurship, digital fabrication and content creation. The Third SPACE Lounge serves as a welcoming community hub for connection, conversation and healing. Its back office now operates as a workforce and business development center, offering free computer access, resumé-building tools and training programs in partnership with Employ Prince George's.

One of the Best Investments

With a small budget, an all-hands-on-deck mentality and a deep commitment to equity, The SPACE delivers free, high-quality programming to numerous families each year. From youth workshops and maker camps to healing circles, expressive art and workforce development, The SPACE continues to punch far above its weight – and every do-

nation makes a powerful impact.

“What started in a basement has grown into a regional model for community healing and creative entrepreneurship,” says Shaymar Higgs, founder and executive director. “We’re honored to be expanding – not just in spirit but physically as well – toward opportunities in Washington, D.C., and beyond.”

The SPACE is deeply grateful to Beltway Plaza management, especially “Rusty” Kerber and the late Marc “Kap” Kapastin, who have supported its presence since 2018, when they offered the use of the original storefront rent-free. That support helped transform a simple idea into a vibrant community institution, where underserved communities can access tools, training and transformation.

As The SPACE launches a Round-Up Campaign and prepares for its upcoming community auction, this moment of transition is also a time of great momentum. Every dollar donated helps The SPACE remain independent, accessible and committed to those most often pushed out or overlooked.

To learn more or donate, visit FreeArtForAll.org or follow @thespacefreeartforall on Instagram and Facebook.

Elevator in Community Center To be Replaced by Early 2026

by Joan Estenson

On the day in May when Prince George's County Councilmember Ingrid Watson hosted Greenbelt seniors for lunch, Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington presented the city with a check for \$200,000 to replace the elevator by the beaver on the first floor of the Community Center, just inside the west entrance to the building.

The lifespan of an elevator is 20 to 25 years and that elevator and the small one by the east parking lot were both installed in 1989, 36 years ago. City Manager Josué Salmerón said work on elevator replacement began in 2017 and they got two proposals in 2024. The project has been given a higher priority since the elevators have been increasingly unreliable.

There is an alternate way for a wheelchair or walker user to get to the first floor, so replacing the small elevator next to the east parking lot is not as urgent. There is no alternative to the stairs to get to the second and third floors when the main, west elevator is down.

The appropriation from the state was a result of consultation between Washington and council on the city's priorities and how the Maryland legislature could help.

The \$200,000 will not cover the whole cost of replacing the elevator, but there is money in the capital budget. Salmerón said he believes that, if council needs to allocate more money, they will, as they see this as a high priority.

With Maryland's new fiscal year beginning July 1, Salmerón will begin working on the paper-



PHOTO BY JOAN ESTENSON

The elevator on the first floor of the Community Center

work to get the money from the state. From there he will discuss the project with the two elevator manufacturers to see if they will honor the plan each outlined in their 2024 proposals. Once agreement is reached, the new elevator can be installed, probably sometime between November 2025 and January 2026, Salmerón said.

While not the only users of the elevator, some members of the Golden Age Club, which meets weekly on the second floor, depend on the elevator to be able to attend meetings. Golden Age Club President Judy Parker said, "I will be glad when all of our members can participate in our activities, with no disappointment because on some Wednesdays the elevator doesn't work."



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COMPASS

Protest Page

Hearings in the Abrego Garcia Case Continue in Greenbelt

by Ellie Jornlin

On Monday, July 7, protestors and the Rapid Response Choir again gathered outside the federal courthouse in Greenbelt with signs and songs during another hearing in the Kilmar Abrego Garcia case.

The Trump Administration would begin the process of deporting Abrego Garcia from the country yet again if he is released from custody before his trial on human smuggling charges in Tennessee, a Justice Department attorney told a federal judge in Maryland on Monday.

The announcement was made by U.S. lawyer Jonathan Guynn and directly contradicts an earlier statement made by the White House last month, which said Garcia would stand trial and most

likely spend time in an American prison before any moves to deport him are made.

Guynn said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would detain Garcia after his release from jail and send him to a “third country,” but did not specify which country that would be, according to the Associated Press.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis is overseeing Garcia’s case and scheduled a hearing on Thursday for officials to explain possible next steps following his release.

Ellie Jornlin is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DOKAN

Greenbelters were among those demonstrating in front of NASA HQ in Washington, D.C., on Monday, June 30. Proposed budget cuts are set to decimate space science at NASA, affecting the jobs of thousands of government employees and contractors, many at NASA Goddard.



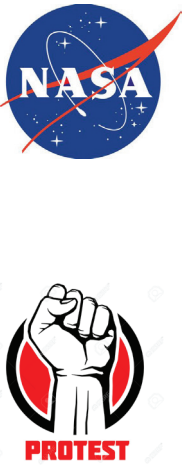
PHOTO BY VICKI CHEESEMAN

The Rapid Response Choir was in full voice at a rally before another hearing for Kilmar Abrego Garcia at Greenbelt Federal Court House on Monday, July 7.



Protesters march to the Spellman Overpass during the No Kings 2.0 rally on July 4.

- Photos by Jeffrey Allen Jones



Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred June 30 - July 6, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one mental health diversion and two domestic incidents. One juvenile missing person case was resolved.

Fatal Hit and Run

On July 2 at 10:29 p.m. on Greenbelt Road at the entrance to Greenway Center, there was an accident involving a motorcycle and a car. The motorcycle rider was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The second vehicle left the scene eastbound on Greenbelt Road toward Hanover Parkway. Witness accounts and vehicle evidence left at the scene suggest that the fleeing vehicle was a 1999-2003 Lexus RX300, either white or silver.

Attempted Carjacking with Arrest

On July 1 at 1:33 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to a robbery call and saw one person flee in a stolen vehicle; a second man fled on foot and tried to pull a driver from his car so that he could escape. He was arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Robbery

On July 3 at 11:53 a.m. near 9314 Edmonston Road, two men with handguns approached a man and took his phone and wallet before fleeing in a white car; and at 5:44 p.m. near 7237 Hanover Parkway, a boy was robbed of his cell phone and shoes. The suspects fled on foot.

On July 5 at 12:35 p.m. near 7303 Hanover Parkway, someone saw a group of men physically restraining another man in what appeared to be a robbery in progress. When officers arrived, two of the men ran away between the buildings, and one was caught and taken to the Department of Corrections in Upper Marlboro.

Vandalism with Gunshots

On July 6 at 7:13 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Court, a woman reported that her vehicle appeared to have bullet holes. Officers found other cars in the area with similar damage. Witnesses reported hearing gunshots in the area overnight.

Break-ins

On July 1 at 9:06 a.m. near 8009 Mandan Road, an evicted man forcibly broke into his former apartment, causing damage to the lock and frame; he was arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On July 2 at 7:24 a.m. near 7501 Greenway Center Drive, somebody broke into an office and ransacked it; several electronic items were taken.

Assault

On July 2 at 5:18 p.m. near 7474 Greenway Center Drive, a man who became irate spat on a security attendant.

DUI Arrests

On July 3 at 8:19 p.m., a car was found stopped on Kenilworth Avenue at the traffic light at Crescent Road. The driver appeared to be asleep. After field sobriety testing, he was arrested and charged with DUI.

On July 4 at 3:04 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, officers observed a car stopped in the middle of the lane. The driver had alcohol on his breath; he was arrested for DUI.

Theft and Shoplifting

On July 1 near 9160 Edmonston Road, and near 9113 Springhill Lane, delivered packages were stolen.

On June 30 at 6:06 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man passed all points of sale with unpaid merchandise; he was arrested and charged.

On July 4 at 1:22 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman with children stole products.

On July 6 at 2:16 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, a woman wearing a purple hospital uniform stole multiple items; she left in a white Lexus with Maryland tags.

Suspicious Person

On July 3 at 3:44 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a woman reported that a young man was

following her. When she confronted the man, he fled from the area in a car with unregistered tags. The man's intent is unknown.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on July 1 near 211 Lakeside Drive, a 2019 Hyundai Tucson (Md. 5FG26330); on July 2 near 7809 Mandan Road, a Hyundai Elantra with door parts left in the parking spot; and on July 3 near 9109 Springhill Lane, a green 2024 Lexus SUV.

Theft from Auto

On June 30 near Mandan Road and Canning Terrace, a Ford Ranger had a window shattered and tools stolen.

On July 1 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, tires were stolen from a Honda Accord; and near 7600 Ora Glen Drive, a Honda Pilot was broken into and a fire-arm was taken.

On July 3 near 7826 Hanover Parkway, a tag was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On July 2 near 71 Ridge Road, a vehicle had a window broken; and near 7954 Lakecrest Drive, a Hyundai was damaged as though someone were trying to gain entry.

On July 3 near 9008 Breezewood Terrace, a Toyota Camry had window and windshield damage.



A beaver among the lily pads at Buddy Attick Park

PHOTO BY NICK HALL



PHOTO BY HONORA BANKO

On June 6 the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy presented a check for over \$6,700 to the Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund. The donation was raised by patrons choosing to round up at checkout during April and May. From left, Dan Gillotte, Jaky Lilly, Susan Walker, Roberto Sanchez, Trudy Conrad, Teddy Lawrence, Twanda Thomas and Keristen Calebaugh



PHOTO BY CALEB KRIESBERG

A gray tree frog, *Hyla versicolor*, sits on a finger.



Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café

Saturday July 19 from 10 am - 2 pm
at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff (volunteers needed as well). Bring your bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library Saturdays 10 am - noon,
Sundays 11 am - 1 pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>



2025 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit this form (or something equivalent) by **July 28** to Bob Zugby

Outstanding Citizen Committee

94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD 20770

or OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement (preferably printed or typed) explaining why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen. You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for *unpaid* volunteer work only.

Any supporting printed material is useful, but not required. Others' testimonials are also helpful.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **July 28 deadline**.

Nominated by: _____

Name(s) Signature(s) Telephone

We need your input—thank you!

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COMPANION/CAREGIVER – Looking to hire someone to spend late afternoon to early evening with a fit senior Greenbelter (GHI) with mid-stage dementia. Activities would include 30-40 minutes walk from their home to Centerway or along the lake and/or gardening, and things like puzzles and reading, and help with evening meal. Email acjansen@aol.com.

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NOTICE

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ROOM FOR RENT – Montpelier, Laurel (off Laurel-Bowie Road), upstairs, female preferred, nonsmoker, fully furnished, a/c, 16’6”x12’. Access extra sitting room across from you. Spacious kitchen with refrigerator and cabinet for you. Victorian living room; laundry room off kitchen; patio. \$850 includes utilities, month-to-month lease; first and last. Nancy 301-676-3996.

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ESTATE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION, LLC – Will, health directive, financial POA package \$480, Md. licensed attorney, Naomi Littlefield Law, LLC, 202-246-1072.

Ad Rate Changes

Effective the issue of August 7, 2025, the News Review will change its ad rates. See page 4 for more details.



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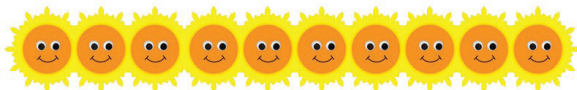
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NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

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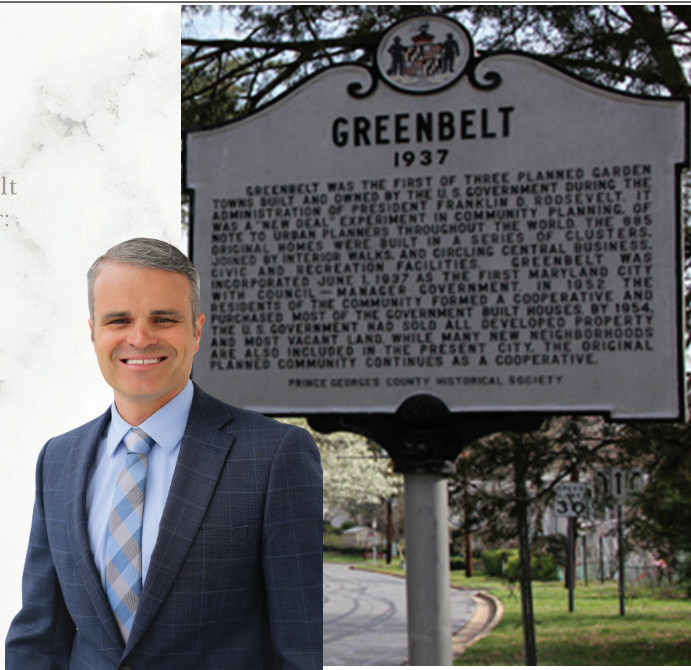
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DAWSON continued from page 1

race, income, all these different pillars.”

While at Roosevelt, Dawson played varsity softball all four years, and focused on clubs, friends and work. But as graduation neared, she had no idea what she wanted to study in college.

University Years

“I think it’s kind of insane to ask a 17-year-old to pick what they want to do for the rest of their life,” said Dawson, but she eventually settled on studying psychology at the University of Maryland, a school she chose because of its affordability and its proximity to Greenbelt.

Staying nearby meant she could continue one of her high school jobs helping at the Recreation Center, through which she coached sports, orchestrated other after-school activities and was a camp counselor at Camp Pine Tree.

“It was cool to then be working alongside people that I called a counselor way back when,” she said.

That work bled into her studies. For her first year of college, Dawson was dedicated to understanding how to improve educational outcomes through extracurricular activities. That interest prompted her to switch majors for the first time, from psychology to education.

This would become a pattern. “Then I realized, in order to actually have an impact on the education system at scale, I need to work in policy,” said Dawson, who did several internships on Capitol Hill. “Then I realized the public sector, while amazing, has so much red tape, and the private sector is a really cool angle to create social impact as well,” she added. That interest led to internships with two consulting firms, and to an opportunity to assemble and run her own house painting company, which she called the most important job she had while in college.



Leila Dawson (center, with sash and tiara) marches in the Greenbelt Labor Day Parade.

After all was said and done, she ended up pursuing a double degree in economics – to learn quantitative skills – and in international relations.

“I felt like every time I switched my major, I got closer and closer to what I wanted, but I also was able to connect dots along the way that maybe I wouldn’t have if I started with economics and international relations as my major,” Dawson said.

Career Start

As she finished her studies, she sought to become a consultant – a career where every day is different, according to Dawson, and that lets you see business from a “bird’s eye view.”

She didn’t stop exploring new fields when she started her career with Deloitte. She began her work in healthcare across the private and public sectors as the coronavirus pandemic was in full swing.

She observed the pandemic’s impacts on residents of Prince George’s County, where rates of infection were especially high. Seeing hospital beds fill up in her hometown of Lanham inspired her to take action outside of her

work, providing local hospice care and supporting the county’s health department.

“I didn’t want to lose myself in the corporate world, I wanted to make sure I understand the community I live in,” Dawson said.

Graduate School

From her years working at Deloitte, she wanted to become an even better leader in healthcare

and bridge the gap between policy and business. That set her on her latest journey as a graduate student of Harvard and Stanford.

This summer, she is helping Bluebird Kids Health, a budding pediatric clinic, set up a location in Jacksonville and a Broward County suburb in Florida.

Future Plans

In the future, she hopes to stay in the healthcare field and continue to explore other fields that intersect. She plans to eventually become an entrepreneur and be a part of “all things start-up.”

Dawson pointed to her parents, several professors and internship coaches and also her Greenbelt teachers and counselors as mentors. “I really wouldn’t be who I am without all these amazing people who poured themselves into me,” she said. “Now, I hope to pour back into my community.”

Will Hammann is a student at the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.



Leila Dawson, center, with the University of Maryland mascot Testudo

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Greenbelt Fourth of July



Greenbelt Artists Welcome Visitors in Multilingual Greeting

On the afternoon of July 3, local artists were at work creating a welcome message on a pathway leading to Greenbelt Lake for the visitors who would arrive to enjoy the city’s fireworks the following day. Artist Emily Liddle designed and drew the welcome message in multiple languages. Arts Advisory Board members Kristin Stenson, a local sidewalk chalk artist, and Vijay Parameshwaran, along with Amanda Larsen, staff liaison to the Board, and

the city’s Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald helped color the art outlined by Liddle. On behalf of the Board, Stenson had written a proposal for the piece, which the city approved. The city prepared for up to 5,000 spectators at the annual fireworks display, many coming from neighboring municipalities. This Fourth of July provided clear skies and perfect weather for the event.



The crowd gathers at Buddy Attick Park during the Fourth of July celebration, flanked by the welcome signs commissioned by the Arts Advisory Board and created by artist Emily Liddle.



From left, Vijay Parameshwaran and Kristin Stenson (crouching), Nicole DeWald (standing) and, at back, Amanda Larsen and John Larsen



Greenbelt Honk! Situation interacts with the crowd at Buddy Attick Park during the Fourth of July celebration.



A public reading of the Declaration of Independence opened Greenbelt’s 4th of July celebration in Buddy Attick Park. Organized by Councilmember Kristen Weaver, the Declaration, one of the foundational documents of the United States, was read by (from left) Councilmember Amy Knesel, Brindisi C., A.J. Stephens, Councilmember Silke Pope, Joe Parks, Michael Hartman, Rebecca Lemus, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Amethyst Dwyer and Weaver.



Fourth of July fireworks at the Lake

- Photos by Jon Gardner



Fireworks are reflected in Greenbelt Lake.



Greenbelt Dog Training, a dog training and obedience company located in Greenbelt, appeared as a unit in the popular annual Takoma Park Fourth of July Parade. Participants marched along several streets in downtown Takoma Park, mainly on Carroll Avenue, to large, enthusiastic crowds.



Nick Proudfoot visited the Firefly Sanctuary on Sunday, June 29 and met some wonderful people who were also at the park viewing the fireflies. He was so impressed that he returned on Thursday, July 3, and captured several images. “I set my camera on a tripod and programmed it to take 12 seconds long exposures. So any movement appears as a streak, and the stationary ones appear as a dot. Then I combined about 800 pictures, over 2 1/2 hours, into one shot that shows all of the movement and flashes. I centered this picture on the North Star (Polaris), since there were no clouds, and that shows the movement of the stars also. Most people don’t realize the stars have colors until they see a long exposure like this. Depending on the size and the makeup of the star, it has a different color. That one’s my favorite, because the fireflies dart to the left and right of the center. Love that you have this going on and are preserving them,” he said.



PHOTO BY NICK PROUDFOOT